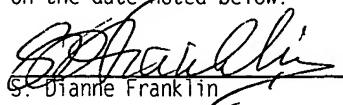


Attorney Docket No. 03705/LH



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date noted below.


S. Dianne Franklin

Dated: March 18, 2004

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extent not tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee, or any other fee required in connection with this Paper, to Account No. 06-1378.

Art Unit : 2852

Examiner :

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

S I R :

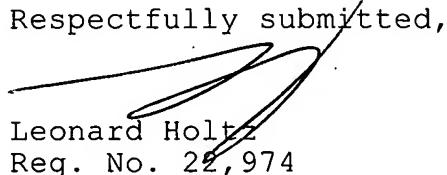
Submitted herewith are copies of the four documents identified on the attached Form PTO/SB/08A. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the attached Form PTO/SB/08A to confirm that the documents listed therein have all been considered and made of record.

English language Abstracts for each of the documents are submitted herewith.

The Japanese documents are identified at page 3, lines 9-11 of the present specification, and are discussed in the introductory portion of the present specification.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the documents submitted herewith and make them of record.

Respectfully submitted,


Leonard Holtz
Reg. No. 22,974

Dated: March 18, 2004

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>MAR 22 2004</i> <small>PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE</small>		Application Number	10/723,819
		Filing Date	November 24, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Kazumichi YAMAUCHI et al
		Group Art Unit	2852
		Examiner Name	
Sheet 1 of 1	Attorney Docket Number	03705/LH	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Document Number	Kind Code ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Inits*	Cite No ¹	Offc ³	Document Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵	Name of Patentee or Applicant	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Relevant Portion	T ⁶
		JP	07-219329		RICOH CO. LTD.	08-18-1995		*
		JP	10-097130		RICOH CO. LTD.	04-14-1998		*
		JP	10-268641		RICOH CO. LTD.	10-09-1998		*
		JP	10-299672		RICOH CO. LTD.	11-10-1998		*
*English language Abstract only								
Examiner Signature				Date Considered				

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication _____ of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Place a check here if English translation is attached.

DATE MAILED: March 18, 2004